

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 VO-01 SCA-01 PRS-01

INR-05 CIAE-00 EURE-00 /036 W
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P R 141239Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2830

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 0726

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SPON, HU

SUBJ: HUNGARIAN VISA PROBLEM: NY TIMES CORRESPONDENT
MALCOLM BROWNE

REF: BUDAPEST 0702

1. DCM AND PAO CALLED AT MFA ON VARKONYI AND RANDE
RESPECTIVELY TAKING POSIZOON OUTLINED REFTEL. REPLY
IN BOTH CASES WAS SIMILAR, NAMELY THAT EMBASSY VIEWS
WERE NOTED AND WOULD BE REPORTED TO HIGHERSYUTHORITY,
THAT STEP WAS NOT RPT NOT AGAINST NYT OR US PRESS IN
GENERAL BUT AGAINST BROWNE, THAT GIVING REASONS FOR
VISA DENIAL NOT CUSTOMARY, AND THAT VISAS FOR ALL
FIVE OTHER JOURNUFISTS WISHING TO COVER CONGRESS
WERE GRANTED.

2. BROWNE TELEPHONED PAO FROM BELGRADE EVENING
MARCH 13, AFTER LATTER'S CALL AT MFA BUT PRIOR DCM'S
MARCH 14 CALL, AND INQUIRED ABOUT RESULTS OF MFA
VISITS. BROWNE THEN ADVISED PAO THAT NYT HAD SENT
HIM NEW INSTRUCTIONS FEW HOURS EARLIER TO FLY TO
VIETNAM IMMEDIATELY TO COVER MORE URGENT STORY THERE,
THUS MAKING QUESTION OF VISA FOR PERIOD OF CONGRESS
MOOT. BROWNE EMPHASIZED HOWEVER HIS CONTINUED
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INTEREST IN RESOLVING CASE SO THAT HE MAY OBTAIN

VISAS AT LATER DATE FOR CONTINUED COVERAGE OF HUNGARIAN EVENTS WHICH FALL WITHIN HIS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY.

3. BROWNE EXPECTS TO BE IN VIETNAM AT LEAST TWO WEEKS. HE SAID NYT HAD NOW REQUESTED VIENNA STRINGER CHARLES MITCHELMORE TO COVER HSWP CONGRESS. FYI MITCHELMORE HAS ALREADY BEEN GRANTED HUNGARIAN VISA.

4. IN LIGHT OF BROWNE TELCON, DCM APPROACH TO VARKONYI MARCH 14 MODIFIED SLIGHTLY TO URGE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE VISA REQUEST RATHER THAN RECONSIDERATION PRESENT DENIAL, A REQUEST TO WHICH HUNGARIANS WILL HOPEFULLY FIND IT EASIER TO RESPOND FAVORABLY.

5. BROWNE TELEPHONED PAO AGAIN AT NOON BUDAPEST TIME MARCH 14 AND WAS INFORMED OF EMBASSY'S REPRESENTATIONS ON HIS BEHALF. BROWNE WAS GENUINELY APPRECIATIVE AND OFFERED TO INQUIRE AGAIN RE STATUS OF CASE AFTER HIS RETURN FROM VIETNAM. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH BROWNE ACCEPTS CASE AS STILL PENDING WITH POSSIBILITY OF FAVORABLE OUTCOME, IT MAY BE ASSUMED THAT HE WILL RECOMMEND NYT NOT PUBLISH ANYTHING ON MATTER FOR TIME BEING.

6. EMBASSY PLANS TO EXPRESS CONTINUED INTEREST TO MFA IN FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF CASE AT APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITIES. MFA HAS PROMISED US A REPLY WITHIN DUE COURSE.
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